

Group, an organization to enhance opportunities for African Americans in the lobbying arena. In addition, Mr. Bates has been a strong supporter of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He is the father of three—Dawn, Hillman and Brandon.

After joining Shiloh nearly two decades ago, Stanley Williams immersed himself in church activities. Today, he serves as Vice President of the Brotherhood of Shiloh Men. He has been a Sunday School teacher in the Youth Department and served as an Assistant Superintendent; Chairman of the Men's Day Committee; and, Co-chaired the Children's Day Committee. He was recently appointed by the Pastor to Co-Chair the Victory Through Faith Campaign Committee.

Mr. Williams currently works at the U.S. Department of Labor where he serves as the Director of Veterans' Employment and Training. He recently was recognized by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for his outstanding knowledge and dedication in his field. He is married to Judy C. Williams and is the father of two children, Lanita and Malek.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Father's Day across the country this Sunday, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting these two outstanding fathers—Robert Edward Bates, Jr. and Stanley K. Williams today for their dedication to the Shiloh Baptist Church, their families, and to the community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, I was speaking before a group of Arkansas students and missed roll call vote No. 237. If I had been here, I would have voted "present."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House voted on final passage of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2646, the Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools. I do not believe that we should be taking resources away from our public schools and directing them towards private schools. I am strongly opposed to H.R. 2646, and cast my vote against the Conference Report (Roll Call Vote No. 243). Therefore, I was concerned to discover this morning that I was listed as not voting on Roll Call No. 243. Apparently, my vote was not properly recorded by the electronic voting system. I am deeply concerned about this incident.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE

### HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the 15th anniversary on June 19th of the creation of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange.

In 1983, marking the 300 years of German immigration to the United States, the Congress and the German Bundestag created a unique program, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange. This exchange was designed to ensure that the close ties of friendship and partnership which had developed between our two countries since the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany would continue in successor generations, and to foster the relationship between our two national legislative bodies.

In each of the past fifteen years, up to 800 American and German high school students and young professionals have taken part in this program. The high school students become aware of the wider world and establish ties which will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Thanks to a combination of classroom education and on-the-job training during their year abroad, young professionals are able to bring valuable experience into their working life: Americans can take advantage of Germany's "dual system" of education and practical training, while German youth can benefit from American strengths in areas such as telecommunications, environmental technology and the service sector. In both cases, the young people of our two countries gain knowledge and experience which will serve them well later in life.

Let me quote from the letter of a recently-returned American high school student, reflecting on her year in Germany:

Now, I am able to speak Germany fluently. I have made many strong friendships and have experienced a culture I was not used to; I have learned a great deal about who I am and about life in general. I have learned to be more tolerant of others and the ideas that they offer. Being an exchange student does not just benefit the exchange. My first weeks in Germany were spent trying to disprove many of the stereotypes the Germans had about the United States and its society. Through this Exchange, all participants are able to return home feeling proud that they had the opportunity to represent the United States.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program also organizes reciprocal visits by staffers of the Congress and Bundestag. I hope that more of my colleagues will encourage their staffers to take advantage of this opportunity to get to know Germany and the working of its government and legislature. The staff exchange can be of tremendous assistance as our two countries grapple with shared problems.

Germany is a uniquely important ally of the United States. We have a strong national interest in maintaining the closest ties and the best understanding possible with both the current leadership and the successor generation. The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange represents one of the best ways to cement our

partnership. During his recent visit to Germany, marking the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, President Clinton declared, "we will be working hard to expand our support for the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, which has already given more than 10,000 German and American students the chance to visit each other's countries."

German leaders in the Bundestag value the relationship with the United States and with the Congress, and recognize the contribution which the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program has made to the close ties which exist. On June 19th, the President of the German Bundestag, Prof. Rita S. Smuth, will mark the 15th anniversary of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program by sending the Bundestag's greetings to all Members of Congress and by congratulating the 200 American participants in this year's program, who will be present during the Bundestag session.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending special greetings to our fellow legislators in the Bundestag, in commemorating the creation of this exchange and in noting its contribution to the distinctive ties between the peoples and the governments of these two great nations.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER'S DEFENSE ACT

### HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I join with Mr. HAYWORTH and 52 of our colleagues to introduce the Taxpayer's Defense Act. This bill simply provides that no federal agency may establish or raise a tax without the approval of Congress.

One of the principles on which the United States was founded was that there should be no taxation without representation.

In the Second Treatise of Government, John Locke said, "[i]f any one shall claim a power to lay and levy taxes on the people, ... without ... consent of the people, he thereby ... subverts the end of government." Consent, according to Locke, could only be given by a majority of the people, "either by themselves or their representatives chosen by them." The Boston Tea Party celebrated Americans' opposition to taxation without representation. And the Declaration of Independence listed, among the despotic acts of King George, his "imposing Taxes on us without our Consent." First among the powers that the Constitution gave to the Congress, our new government's representative branch, was the power to levy taxes.

The logic of having only Congress establish federal taxes is clear: only Congress considers and weighs every economic and social issue that rises to national importance. While any faction, agency, or sub-agency of the government may view its own priorities as paramount, only Congress can decide which goals are of the importance to merit spending taxpayer dollars. Only Congress can determine the level at which taxpayer dollars should be spent.

The American ban on taxation without representation has not been seriously challenged